

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of July 12, 2004**

1. **Press Release:** The Communications Office issued a press release following the Council's passage of the resolution in support of same-sex marriage on Monday night. The issue was covered by News Channel 8, Washington Post, Washington Times, the Gazette and other local media. *(Communications)*

2. **Landlord-Tenant/Code Enforcement Survey:** A survey is being conducted this week and next to determine what actions are being taken by landlords in regard to the air conditioning violation notices they have received from the County code enforcement division. In order to abate the violations, landlords have been either re-wiring the rental units or removing the air conditioners. Results of the survey will be reported to the Council on July 26th. *(Housing and Community Development)*

3. **Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 2):** Tenants residing at 7423, 25 and 27 Aspen Court have submitted to the owner, a letter of interest to purchase the property. This 16 unit property was offered to the tenants on April 21, 2004 in accordance with Article 8. The City's Capacity Building Initiative assisted the residents in forming a tenants' association. On July 8, the association selected Rick Eisen to represent them in this possible transaction. An RFP has been distributed by the tenants association to assist them in the selection of an appropriate developer. *(Housing and Community Development)*

4. **Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 5):** Tenants residing at 8508-10 Flower Avenue are in the process of contracting with Habitat for Humanity to assist them in the purchase, renovation, and development of the building. The Capacity Building Initiative instrumental in helping the residents organize into a tenants association. Historically Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County has been working extensively in upper Montgomery County. This is the first project of its kind (condominium conversion) for the Montgomery County organization and it is clear they are very excited about the prospect of working in Takoma Park. *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. **Affordable Housing Initiatives:** An informational packet of First Time Homebuyer programs is now available. The packet contains information about state, county and non-profit programs that assist low to moderate income first time homebuyers. The packet will be continually updated and can be obtained by calling Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. Efforts are underway to put this information and the relevant links on the city's website. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. **Hospital (Ward 5):** The Planning Board is tentatively scheduled to discuss the regulatory process for hospital expansions on the morning of July 22nd. It will probably be the third item on the agenda. Copies of the staff report will be available on Monday. The item is scheduled as a briefing, not a public hearing or action item. City staff will attend. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

7. **Crime Report:** Some media reports have suggested that police have connected attacks on women walking from the Takoma Metro. Although Takoma Park and D.C. Police are consulting on some incidents, significant differences between the events make such linkage premature, media reports also differ from official reports. In a blotter several weeks ago, TPPD reported that a man made a sexual comment towards a female shopper in the Takoma Junction area (Ward 3) and displayed a knife; he fled when a passerby offered assistance. This report is considered an attempted sexual assault. It is our understanding that D.C. is investigating a robbery that included a sexual assault and an armed robbery. The two agencies are also consulting on strong arm robberies involving Hispanic suspects. *(Police)*

8. **Crime Report (Ward 1):** On July 13 an armed carjacking of a man's vehicle was reported at Tulip and Maple Avenues. *(Police)*

9. **Crime Statistics:** Attached is a report of crime statistics for the first half of 2004, with a second quarter comparison over the past two years. *(Police)*

10. **Police Staff in Meetings:** Chief Creamer attended the Crossroads Commission Meeting on July 8 and a C-SAFE oversight committee meeting on July 14 (Ward 6). Capt. Coursey and Ms. Pullet attended an MAPP (Maryland Association of Police Planners) meeting Friday morning at UMBC. *(Police)*

11. **Promotions:** Effective July 1, include Richard Cipperly to the rank of Lieutenant, as commander of the Support Services Division; Richard Cannatella and Douglas Malarkey to corporal, both are patrol officers; and Kristian Pedersen to the rank of Private First Class. D/Cpl Richard Poole will serve as an acting sergeant, a supervisor in Criminal Investigations. *(Police)*

12. **Shift Changes:** Changeover occurred last weekend, with Squads 1 & 3 (Sgts. Bowers and Frishkorn) moving to the night shift. Squads 2 & 4 (Sgts. Hammond and Skibicki) will work day shifts for the next six weeks, through August 22. *(Police)*

13. **Progress Meeting (Wards 1 & 4):** On Thursday, July 15, 2004, Public Works conducted a street renovation progress meeting with EBA Engineering and VMP Constructions to review the technical components of paving for the past month. The renovations of Grant Avenue, Chestnut Avenue and Maple Avenue were discussed. Additionally, the storm water work on Maple Avenue was discussed. We plan to initiate construction on the aforementioned projects within the next six weeks. *(Public Works)*

14. **HOV Lines:** A map showing planned transit and HOV improvements in the Transportation Planning Board's "The Region" magazine inadvertently shows a planned HOV line through Takoma Park along the old County line. This was due to a production error and is not part of the Financially Constrained Long Range Plan that was adopted by the Transportation Planning Board. The Council of Government staff responsible for the publication is mortified and apologizes for any confusion. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

15. **Summer Quest Program:** Summer reading is alive and well at the Library, as children sign up for passports to this year's interactive 'read to move' adventure, created by Library Assistant Dave Burbank. This year's Summer Quest program runs from June until Labor Day. A celebration will be held at the end of summer for participants, with drawings for books and other prizes. In addition, the Washington Wizards are offering two complementary tickets to a designated Wizards game to kids ages 9 - 15 who read 10 "chapter books" during the summer. Techno-savvy readers can send a blog to <http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/library/children/summerquest/index4.html> This year's summer reading program is supported by the Friends of the Library. (*Library*)

16. **Arianna Ross:** On July 22nd, story teller Arianna Ross will share tales from her wide experience gathering stories from countries as diverse as Egypt, Ireland, Indonesia and Spain. Arianna spent three years traveling and performing with Bansi Kaul's troupe Rang Vidushak throughout India, and has been featured on National Public Radio. Her program is brought to Takoma Park audiences through the Friends of the Library. (*Library*)

17. **1001 Nights:** In a new series to promote summer reading for children ages 6 - 9, Children's Librarian and Media Specialist Tina Hudak will be 'Scheherazad' during the first week in August. Each evening she will tell tales and read aloud in the children's room, sharing from her vast treasure trove of literary gems. A real treasure chest will be opened at the conclusion of each evening with small mementos to take home! (*Library*)

18. **The Odyssey:** Performance artist Ritchie Porter will return to entertain Library audiences on August 17, in a one-man rendition of "The Odyssey." This special program is funded through a grant from the Washington Redskins with the cooperation of the Friends of the Library, to support summer reading. (*Library*)

19. **Gene Miller:** Library Assistant and writer Gene Miller is featured in the August issue of "Washingtonian" magazine, with an article about landmarks along the route to Atlantic beach resorts. (*Library*)

20. **Farewell to Susan:** Regrettably, Library Assistant Susan Lisle has recently left our staff as her family is moving out of state. Susan heroically led our Tuesday morning Circle Time while Jillian was away, using finger plays and telling stories to 80 - 100 preschoolers and their caregivers each week. (*Library*)

Comparative UCR Statistics Part One Crimes Takoma Park
 Second Quarter 2004 (Apr - Jun) and First Half

	Second Quarter			First Half Jan. - Jun.2004	Range of Annual Rate <i>(based on 1994-03)</i>
	2002	2003	2004		
Homicide	0	1	0	0	0-2
Rape	2	4	0	1	5-9
Robbery	16	17	16	29	66-98
Aggravated Assault	3	2	10	16	21-63
Burglary	19	36	38	73	105-158
Larceny	197	134	113	194	488-610
Auto Theft	66	55	35	68	132-200
Totals	303	249	212	381	817 - 1,140